

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims 19 to 31 on record by claims 32 to 47, as follows:

CLAIMS:

- 32. (Former claim 19) A pulverulent mannitol having:
- an average diameter of between 60 and 200 μm ;
 - a packed bulk density, determined according to the method specified in the operating instructions for the HOSOKAWA P.T.N powder tester, of between 0.65 and 0.85 g/ml;
 - a flow factor of at least 60.
33. (Former claim 20) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32 having:
- an average diameter of between 80 and 180 μm .
34. (Former claim 21) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32 having:
- a packed bulk density, determined according to the method specified in the operating instructions for the HOSOKAWA P.T.N powder tester, of between 0.7 and 0.8 g/ml.
35. (Part of former claim 22) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32 having:
- a flow factor of at least 60.
36. (Part of former claim 22) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim 35 having:
- a flow factor of between 60 and 90.
37. (Former claim 23) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32, having a mannitol content at least equal to 96% by weight.

38. (Former claim 24) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~23~~ 37, having a mannitol content at least equal to 98% by weight.

39. (Former claim 25) The pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32, having a rate of dissolution of between 20 and 60 seconds when dissolving 5 g of the product until perfect visual clarity, into 150 ml of deionised, degassed water maintained at 20°C and stirred at 200 rpm.

40. (Former claim 26) A process for preparing a pulverulent mannitol having the characteristics of the pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32, comprising a step of granulating a crystalline mannitol powder by a wet route with the aid of a binder, and a maturing step, by drying, of the pulverulent mannitol thus obtained.

41. (Former claim 27) The preparation process according to claim ~~26~~ 40, wherein the granulation stage is carried out in a continuous mixer granulator.

42. (Part of former claim 28) An excipient in ~~preparation~~ a composition, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32.

43. (Part of former claim 28) An excipient according to claim 42 in preparation a pharmaceutical composition.

44. (Former claim 29) An excipient ~~for~~ in a powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol according to claim ~~19~~ 32.

45. (Part of former claim 30) An excipient in ~~preparation~~ a composition, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in claim ~~26~~ 40.

46. (Part of former claim 30) An excipient according to claim 45 in preparation a pharmaceutical composition.

47. (Former claim 31) Excipient ~~for~~ in a powder for filling hard capsules, comprising pulverulent mannitol as produced in claim ~~26~~ 40.--